

# **School Readiness Initiative**

## **California Children and Families Commission**

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**School Readiness: Year in Review**

**\* Part 1 of 2 \***

**July 18, 2002**



# Why Invest in School Readiness?



California's children will be healthier and better prepared to reach their greatest potential in school and in life. (CCFC Vision)

# **We Know Investments in Early Years Increase School Readiness**

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- A child's brain develops very rapidly in the first three years of life; experience plays a significant role in brain structure and function.
- Early childhood offers the greatest potential return on investment; interventions have demonstrated cost-effectiveness.
- Brain development and public investment are not synchronized.

# Purpose of School Readiness Programs/Systems

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- To coordinate, develop, implement, and sustain a system of collaborative school- based/linked services, programs, and informal supports based on research or promising practices to improve 'school readiness' for children, families, communities, and schools
- To focus CCFC efforts (four strategic result areas)

# SR Task Force

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- January 2001 – Governor Davis establishes SR Task Force
- Representatives: Governor's Office; Secretary for Education, DHHS; DOF; CCFC; 3 Co. Comm.
- Meetings in February and March, 2001
- Results: Conceptual design; Check into legislative and regulatory flexibility; Commitment to work together

# SR Advisory Committee

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- Convened to broaden participation in SRI
- Representatives: Educators and Administrators (K-12 and ECE); Legislators; Parent Groups; Advocacy Groups; State Agencies; Local Government; Advisory Comm on Diversity reps
- Meetings in March and July, 2001
- Results: Expand partnership and support for SR; Advice for implementation and technical assistance

# CCFC SR Planning Group

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- Fiscal
- Program (aka Criteria)
- Evaluation
- Technical Assistance

Provided ideas and enthusiasm for design of SRI;  
Broadened County Commission support via  
CCAFA and Advisory Comm. on Diversity

# Fiscal Work Group

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Commissioners and Staff from:

- Orange County
- Los Angeles County
- Kern County

Advisory Committee on Diversity Members

Foundation Friends: Packard, Foundation Consortium

TASC Representatives

CCFC Staff





# Program Work Group

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Commissioners and Staff from:

- Santa Clara County
- Contra Costa County
- Alameda County

Advisory Committee on Diversity Members

Foundation Friends: Packard, CA Endowment

TASC Representatives

CCFC Staff



# Evaluation Work Group

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Commissioners and Staff from:

- Santa Barbara County
- Yuba County
- Solano County

Advisory Committee on Diversity Members

Foundation Friends: Foundation Consortium

TASC Representatives

CCFC Staff



# Technical Assistance Work Group

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Commissioners and Staff from:

- San Diego County
- Kings County
- Monterey County

Advisory Committee on Diversity Members

Foundation Friends: Packard, Foundation Consortium

TASC Representatives

CCFC Staff



# CCFC School Readiness Initiative Builds on 3 Important Components (NEGP definition)

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# **CCFC School Readiness Programs build on NEGP School Readiness definition**

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Five Essential and Coordinated Elements for SR

- Early Care and Education
- Parenting/Family Support
- Health and Social Services
- Schools' Readiness for Children
- Infrastructure, Evaluation, and Administration

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# Target Communities for CCFC School Readiness Programs

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Communities served by schools with Academic Performance Index (API) in deciles 1-3, estimate:

- 1385 schools
- About 800,000 children (0-5)
- 85% low income
- 48% English Language Learners
- 75% Latino

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# Accomplishments:

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- Development and integration of 'Equity Principles' in School Readiness Initiative
- Strong involvement of Advisory Committee on Diversity in design and launch





# Accomplishments:

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Master Plan for Education sets 20-Year policy focus for program, media, and legislative work in California





# Accomplishments:

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- All 58 County Commissions invited and eager to participate
- CCFC and County Commissions provide \$413M for 4-year launch
- To Date: 67 SR Programs in process (represents 23 Counties)



# Accomplishments:

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## Program

- Developed March 2001 'Discussion Paper' outlining purpose, research, and design
- SR-RFF released August 2001 and revised March 2002
- Coordinated Peer Reviews for Statewide Consistency (Nov 2001, Feb&June 2002) that build on extensive County Comm. review

# Accomplishments:

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## Public Relations

- SR Articles in 'Building Blocks'
- Presentations at CDE 'Schools' IN,' CAEYC and DHS/MCH Statewide Conferences and more
- Plans for SR in Media, PR, and CBO Programs

# Accomplishments:

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## Evaluation

- Contract with SRI, includes subcontracts with UCLA and CS&O
- Regional evaluation meetings and two SR evaluation meetings

# Accomplishments:

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## Technical Assistance

- CCFC: Initial Information Mtgs; Ongoing Conference Calls; Statewide Conference; Consultation and Presentations
- UCLA Interagency Agreement for ToolKits, Listserv, Regional Meetings, Consultation
- TASC Resources and Consultation
- County Partner Resources

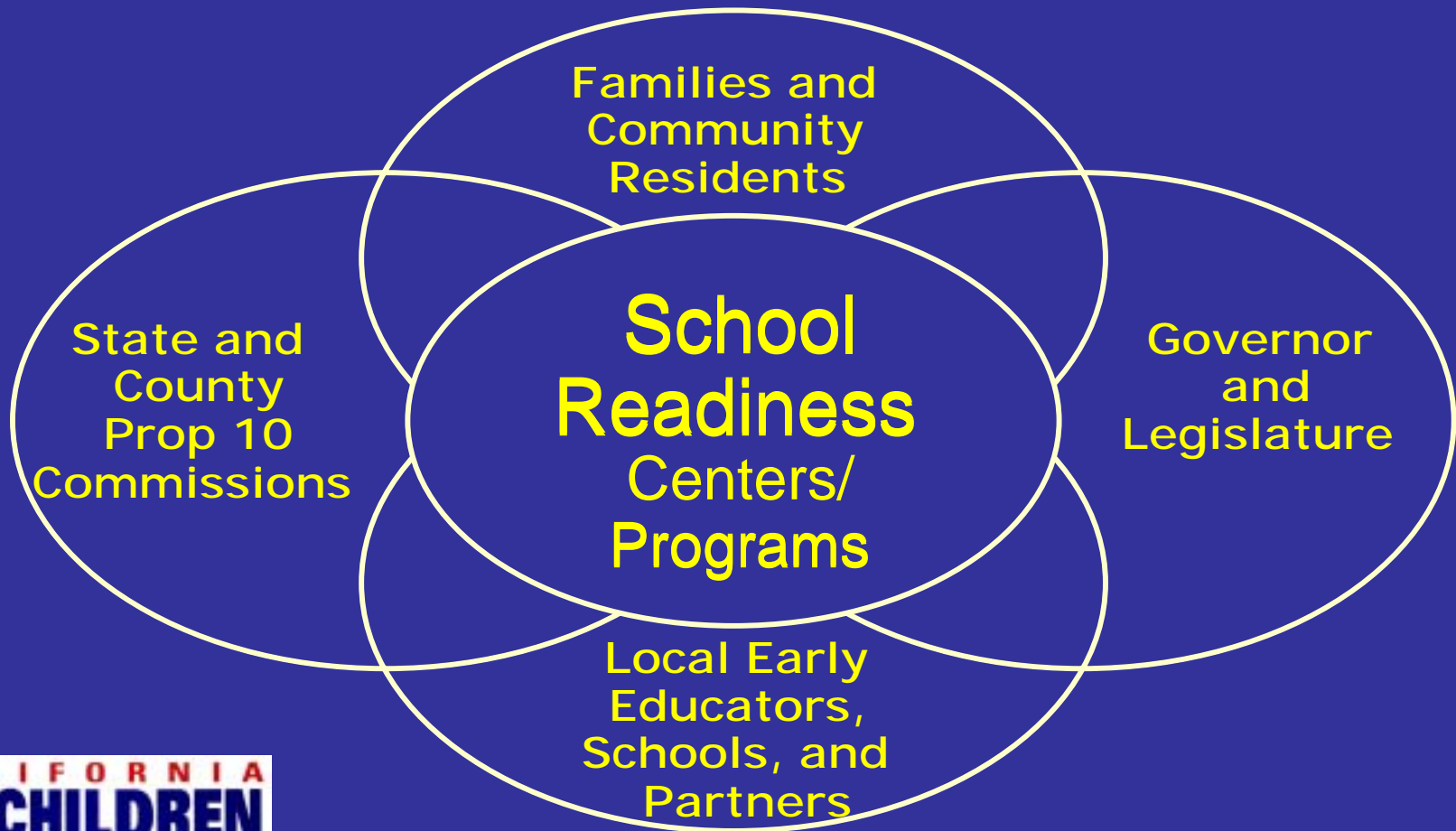
# Challenges:

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- Huge effort to start-up, especially coordination across 5 Essential and Coordinated Elements
- Implementation of Equity Principles
- Harvest and disseminate 'how to' information
- Coordination of program, evaluation, technical assistance, media efforts

# School Readiness Involves Many Partners

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